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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

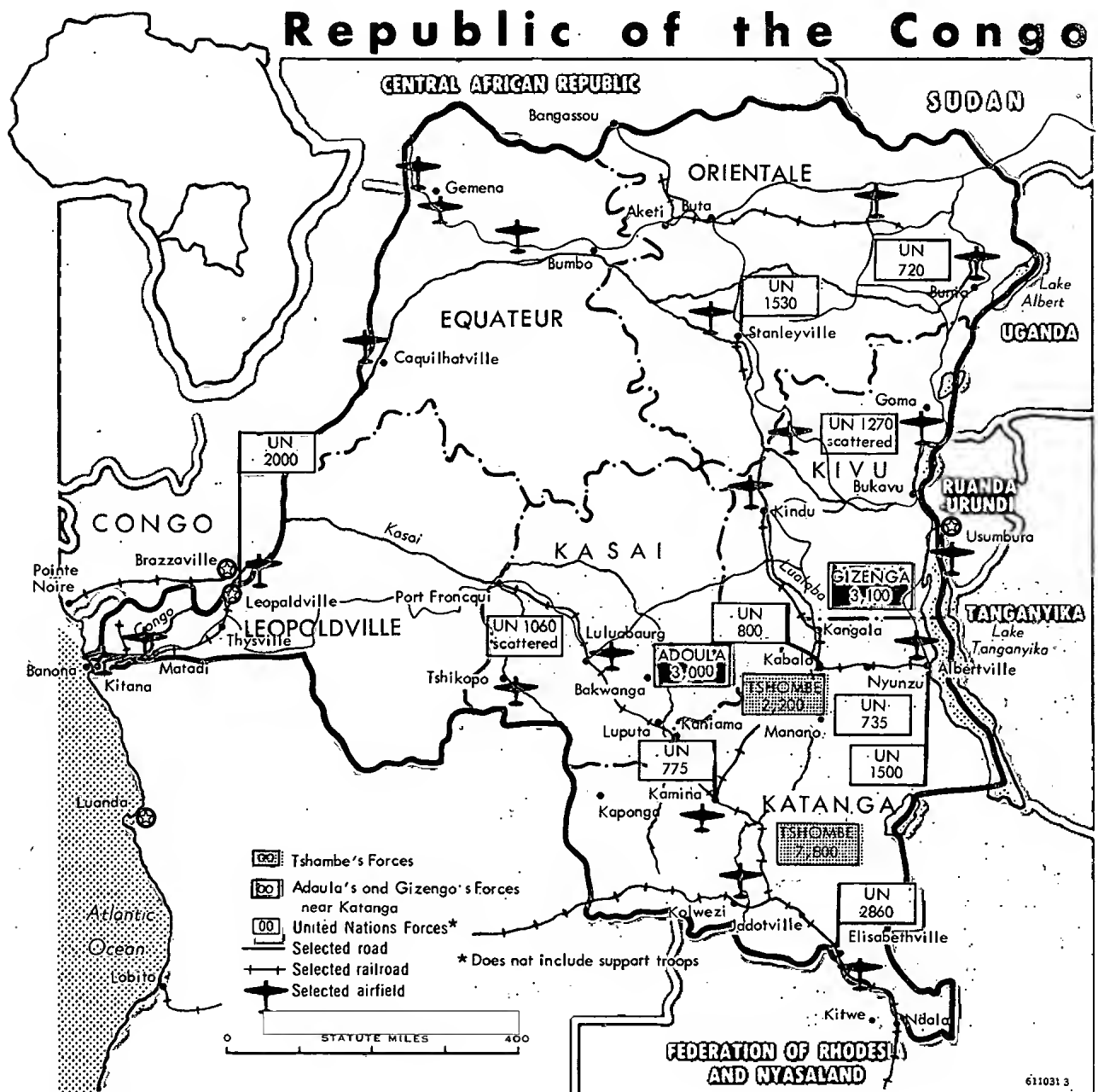
31 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Soviet Party Congress

Today's will apparently be the last meeting. After a perfunctory debate, the Congress approved changes in the Party rules and went into a closed session at which, according to press reports, further action against Malenkov, Molotov, et al was discussed. Another closed session this morning will ratify the leadership's proposed membership for the new Central Committee. The list will probably be announced at a final public session this afternoon; this will be followed today or tomorrow by the new Committee's first meeting, at which it will "elect" a new Presidium..

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3. Congo

The cease fire in the Congo broke down yesterday. Adoula announced a "police action" to "liquidate" Tshombé's secession. Some fighting is under way in North Katanga and there are indications that Gizengist forces may be moving to join in the campaign. The UN is so far limiting its reaction to using Swedish jets to ward off Katangan air attacks against Kasai. We remain highly skeptical about Adoula's and Gizenga's ability to bring real force to bear in South Katanga where Tshombé's main forces are concentrated.

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5. New clashes possible on
Pakistani-Afghan border

The first 7000 of some 250,000 Pushtoon nomads who traditionally winter in Pakistan have been stopped for lack of passports and visas. As more caravans reach the border, many nomads may try to fight through. The Afghans, who now face the burden of feeding the nomads through the winter, can be expected to exploit anti-Pakistan sentiment among them.

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NOTES

- A. Ambassador Thompson describes the Soviet note to Finland yesterday (requesting consultations under the 1948 mutual defense treaty) as "part of the war of nerves." We think the USSR is thus seeking to force Finland's acknowledgement of a threat to the peace from West Germany. We doubt, however, that the Soviets would jeopardize Kekkonen's reelection by asking for military bases.
- B. Embassy Saigon believes that the Diem government is trying to drive the ICC out of the country by "spontaneous" demonstrations and administrative obstruction.
- C. Karamanlis' party won nearly 50 percent of the Greek popular vote (and about 175 of 300 parliamentary seats) in Sunday's election--an unexpected margin. Communist-front parties got only 15 percent (as opposed to 25 percent in 1958); a new non-communist opposition coalition won the remainder, but is expected to splinter.

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